

What is Claimed:

1. An apparatus for supporting a camera on an object, comprising:
- a. a hinge member rotatably attached to the camera, said camera rotating over a first axis of rotation relative to said hinge member; and
  - b. a support frame hingedly attached to said hinge member to engagingly support said hinge member on the object, said hinge member rotating over a second axis of rotation relative to said support frame, said first axis of rotation being perpendicular to said second axis of rotation, said second axis of rotation being substantially parallel to a first surface when said hinge member is engagingly supported on the object, said support frame supporting said camera in a first position on the object when said first surface is substantially level, said support frame supporting the camera in a second position on the object when said first surface is inclined from said substantially level position, the object having a second surface wherein a thickness between the first surface and said second surface defines an edge therebetween, the camera being maintained adjacent said edge in said second position when the uppermost portion of the object is the edge, rotation of said support

frame being prevented along an axis substantially parallel to said second axis, said second axis being substantially parallel to said edge.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the support frame comprises a first portion and a second portion, said first portion and said second portion supporting the camera in the first position on the first surface when said first portion and said second portion are engaging the first surface when the first surface is substantially level, said first portion and said second portion supporting the camera in the second position on the first surface adjacent the edge when said first portion is engaging the first surface and said second portion is engaging the edge and the second surface, said first portion and said second portion in combination maintaining the camera adjacent the edge and preventing rotation of the support frame along the axis substantially parallel to the second axis.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the support frame has means to releasably hold and protect the camera during storage.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the means to releasably hold and protect the camera comprises the

camera being rotated around the second axis in a direction from the second portion towards the first portion of the support frame until the camera is in a position between the first portion and the second portion and is releasably held between the first portion and the second portion, the first portion having means to protect a lens of the camera.

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5. An apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the means to protect the lens of the camera is a cover mounted at the distal end of the first portion, the lens of the camera facing in the direction of rotation about the second axis from the second portion to the first portion of the support frame to allow the lens of the camera to be fitably received into said cover when the camera is releasably held between the first portion and the second portion.
6. An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the first portion and the second portion support the camera in the first position on the first surface when the first portion and the second portion engage the first surface at three or more locations in a plane of the first surface to prevent rotation of the support frame relative to the first surface in any direction within said plane of the first surface.

7. An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the first portion and the second portion support the camera in the first position on the first surface when the first portion and the second portion engage the first surface to prevent rotation of the support frame relative to the first surface in any direction within a plane of the first surface.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the first portion and the second portion support the camera in the second position on the first surface adjacent the edge when a first distance from the edge to the position where the first portion engages the first surface is greater than a second distance from the edge to the position where the second portion engages the second surface, a center of gravity of the camera and said hinge member being adjacent and external to the first surface in combination with the first distance being greater than the second distance preventing rotation of the support frame along an axis substantially parallel to the second axis of rotation.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the object is a top of a table when the support frame is in the first position, the first surface being a top surface of the table.

10. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the object is a desk top when the support frame is in the first position, the first surface being a top surface of the desk.

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A4 7 11. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the object is a display screen for a laptop computer when the support frame is in the second position, the second surface being the front of the display screen and the first surface being the back of the display screen.

12. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the hinge member is comprised of a body having a proximal and a distal end, a pivot element at said proximal end of said body rotatably attaching the camera to the body so that the camera rotates about the first axis relative to the body, a hinge element at said distal end of said body hingedly attaching said body to the support frame so that said body rotates about the second axis relative to the support frame.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the camera has an electrical wiring harness to couple from an interior to an exterior, the pivot element having a bore parallel to the first axis of rotation to receive said electrical wiring harness to pass said wiring harness from said

interior to said exterior of the camera.

14. An apparatus for supporting a camera on an object, comprising:

- a. a hinge member rotatably attached to the camera, said camera rotating over a first axis of rotation relative to said hinge member; and
- b. a support frame hingedly attached to said hinge member to engagingly support said hinge member on the object, said hinge member rotating over a second axis of rotation relative to said support frame, said first axis of rotation being perpendicular to said second axis of rotation, said second axis of rotation being substantially parallel to a first surface when said hinge member is engagingly supported on the object, the support frame having a rear support element and a first and second front support element, said rear support element and said first and said second front support elements supporting the camera in the first position on said first surface when said rear support element and said first and second front support elements are engaging said first surface when said first surface is substantially level, said rear support element and said first and said second front support elements supporting the camera

in a second position on said first surface adjacent an edge when said first surface is inclined from said substantially level position, the object having a second surface wherein a thickness between said first surface and said second surface defines said edge therebetween, the camera being maintained adjacent said edge in said second position when the uppermost portion of the object is the edge, said rear support element engaging said first surface and said first and second front support elements engaging the edge and the second surface, said rear support element and said first and second front support elements in combination maintaining the camera adjacent the edge and preventing rotation of the support frame along an axis substantially parallel to the second axis, said second axis being substantially parallel to said edge.

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15. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the support frame has means to releasably hold and protect the camera during storage.

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16. An apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the means to releasably hold and protect the camera comprises the camera being rotated around the second axis in a direction from the first and second front support

elements towards the rear support element of the support frame until the camera is in a position between the rear support element and the first and second front support elements and is releasably held between the rear support element and the first and second front support elements, the rear support element having means to protect a lens of the camera.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the first and second front support elements are spaced a distance apart at a distance less than a diameter of a housing of the camera, the camera being rotated around the second axis in the direction towards the rear support element so that said housing passes between the first and second front support elements, the first and second front support elements resiliently and outwardly flexing to accommodate passage of said housing, said housing being releasably held once passing between the first and second front support elements by the rear support element engaging said housing at the lens, the first and second front support elements engaging said housing backside to resiliently urge said housing towards the rear support element.

18. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the means to protect the lens of the camera is a cover mounted at the



distal end of the rear support element, the lens of the camera facing in the direction of rotation about the second axis from the first and second front support elements to the rear support element of the support frame to allow the lens of the camera to be fitably received into said cover when the camera is releasably held between the rear support element and the first and second front support elements.

19. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the rear support element and the first and second front support elements support the camera in the first position on the first surface when the rear support element and the first and second front support elements engage the first surface at three or more locations in a plane of the first surface to prevent rotation of the support frame relative to the first surface in any direction within said plane of the first surface.
20. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the rear support element and the first and second front support elements support the camera in the first position on the first surface when the rear support element and the first and second front support elements engage the first surface to prevent rotation of the support frame relative to the first surface in any direction within a plane of

the first surface.

21. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the rear support element and the first and second front support elements support the camera in the second position on the first surface adjacent the edge when a first distance from the edge to the position where the rear support element engages the first surface is greater than a second distance from the edge to the position where the first and second front support elements engage the second surface, a center of gravity of the camera and said hinge member being adjacent and external to the first surface in combination with the first distance being greater than the second distance preventing rotation of the support frame along an axis substantially parallel to the second axis of rotation.

22. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the object is a top of a table when the support frame is in the first position, the first surface being a top surface of the table.

23. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the object is a desk top when the support frame is in the first position, the first surface being a top surface of the

desk

24. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the object is a display screen for a laptop computer when the support frame is in the second position, the second surface being the front of the display screen and the first surface being the back of the display screen.

*Def a6* 25. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the hinge member is comprised of a body having a proximal and a distal end, a pivot element at said proximal end of said body rotatably attaching the camera to the body so that the camera rotates about the first axis relative to the body, a hinge element at said distal end of said body hingedly attaching said body to the support frame so that said body rotates about the second axis relative to the support frame.

26. An apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the camera has an electrical wiring harness to couple from an interior to an exterior, the pivot element having a bore parallel to the first axis of rotation to receive said electrical wiring harness to pass said wiring harness from said interior to said exterior of the camera.

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